

In the Claims:

1 (original). An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is place on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation; and

a stiffening device supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation.

2 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is a tongue-shaped slit tongue.

3 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is a shoehorn-shaped slit tongue.

4 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is also provided in a region of the cuff to support and to shape the cuff during pressing.

5 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is air-permeable.

6 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device has at least one air hole.

7 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inflatable bag is of a material; and

said stiffening device is disposed in said material of said inflatable bag.

8 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device is fastened on said inflatable bag.

9 (original). The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said inflatable bag has a tab fitted thereon;

said stiffening device has ends; and

said tab retains said stiffening device by at least one of said ends.

10 (original). The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

said stiffening device has ends; and

said stiffening device is a slit tongue and is fitted by at least one of said ends directly on said inflatable bag.

11 (original). The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said stiffening device is a slit tongue and is fitted by at least one of said ends directly on said inflatable bag.

12 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a clip for fixing the cuff integrally formed on said stiffening device.

13 (original). The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said clip is air-permeable.

14 (original). The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said clip has at least one air hole.

15 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said inflatable bag has an end region adjacent the cuff when in the pressing operation and an air-impermeable region at said end region.

16 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening device has an inner tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff when in the pressing operation.

17 (original). The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said stiffening device has an inner tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff when in the pressing operation.

18 (original). The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said tensioning mechanism has two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

19 (original). The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said tensioning mechanism has two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

20 (original). The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clothing item is a shirt or a blouse.

21 (original). An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is place on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation; and

a stiffening means for supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation.

22 (original). An apparatus for pressing items of clothing having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff, comprising:

a pressing dummy having an inflatable bag projecting into a region of the cuffs of the clothing item when the clothing item is place on the dummy for drying, supporting, and shaping the sleeve during a pressing operation, said inflatable bag has a tab; and

an air-permeable stiffening device supporting and shaping the clothing item in a region of the slit during the pressing operation, said stiffening device:

having ends;

being fastened on said inflatable bag, said tab retaining said stiffening device by at least one of said ends; and

being disposed in a region of the cuff to support and to shape the cuff during pressing.

23 (New). A method for pressing items of clothing, which comprises:

placing a clothing item having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff on a pressing dummy; and

carrying out a pressing operation of the item by:

projecting an inflatable bag of the pressing dummy into a region of the cuffs when the item is placed on the dummy for drying;

supporting and shaping the sleeve with the inflatable bag during the pressing operation; and

supporting and shaping a region of the slit with a stiffening device during the pressing operation.

24 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises providing the pressing dummy with a tongue-shaped slit tongue as the stiffening device.

25 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises providing the pressing dummy with a shoehorn-shaped slit tongue as the stiffening device.

26 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises supporting and shaping the cuff during pressing by providing the stiffening device in a region of the cuff.

27 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises providing the stiffening device as an air-permeable stiffening device.

28 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises providing the stiffening device with at least one air hole.

29 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises placing the stiffening device in a material of the inflatable bag.

30 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises fastening the stiffening device on the inflatable bag.

31 (New). The method according to claim 30, which further comprises:

fitting a tab on the inflatable bag; and

retaining the stiffening device with the tab by at least one end of the stiffening device.

32 (New). The method according to claim 30, which further comprises:

providing the stiffening device as a slit tongue; and

fitting the slit tongue by at least one of the ends thereof directly on the inflatable bag.

33 (New). The method according to claim 31, which further comprises removably fixing the cuff with a clip integrally formed on the stiffening device.

34 (New). The method according to claim 23

providing an end region of the inflatable bag adjacent the cuff during the pressing operation; and

providing the end region with an air-impermeable region.

35 (New). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises providing the stiffening device with an inner tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff during the pressing operation.

36 (New). The method according to claim 26, which further comprises providing the stiffening device with an inner



tensioning mechanism in a region of the cuff during the pressing operation.

37 (New). The method according to claim 35, which further comprises providing the tensioning mechanism with two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

38 (New). The method according to claim 36, which further comprises providing the tensioning mechanism with two tensioning jaws supported one upon another.

39 (New). The method according to claim 23, providing the clothing item as a shirt or a blouse.

40 (New). A method for pressing items of clothing, which comprises:

providing a pressing dummy with:

an inflatable bag having a tab; and

a stiffening device fastened on the inflatable bag, said stiffening device:

having ends;

being retained with the tab by at least one of the ends; and

being disposed in a region of the cuff to support and to shape the cuff during pressing;

placing a clothing item having sleeves with cuffs and a slit disposed above the cuff on the pressing dummy; and

carrying out a pressing operation of the item by:

projecting an inflatable bag of the pressing dummy into a region of the cuffs when the item is placed on the dummy for drying;

supporting and shaping the sleeve with the inflatable bag during the pressing operation; and

supporting and shaping a region of the slit with an air-permeable stiffening device during the pressing operation.